

A CHILD'S STORY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT



IN WORDS OF
ONE SYLLABLE

REFERENCE BOOK

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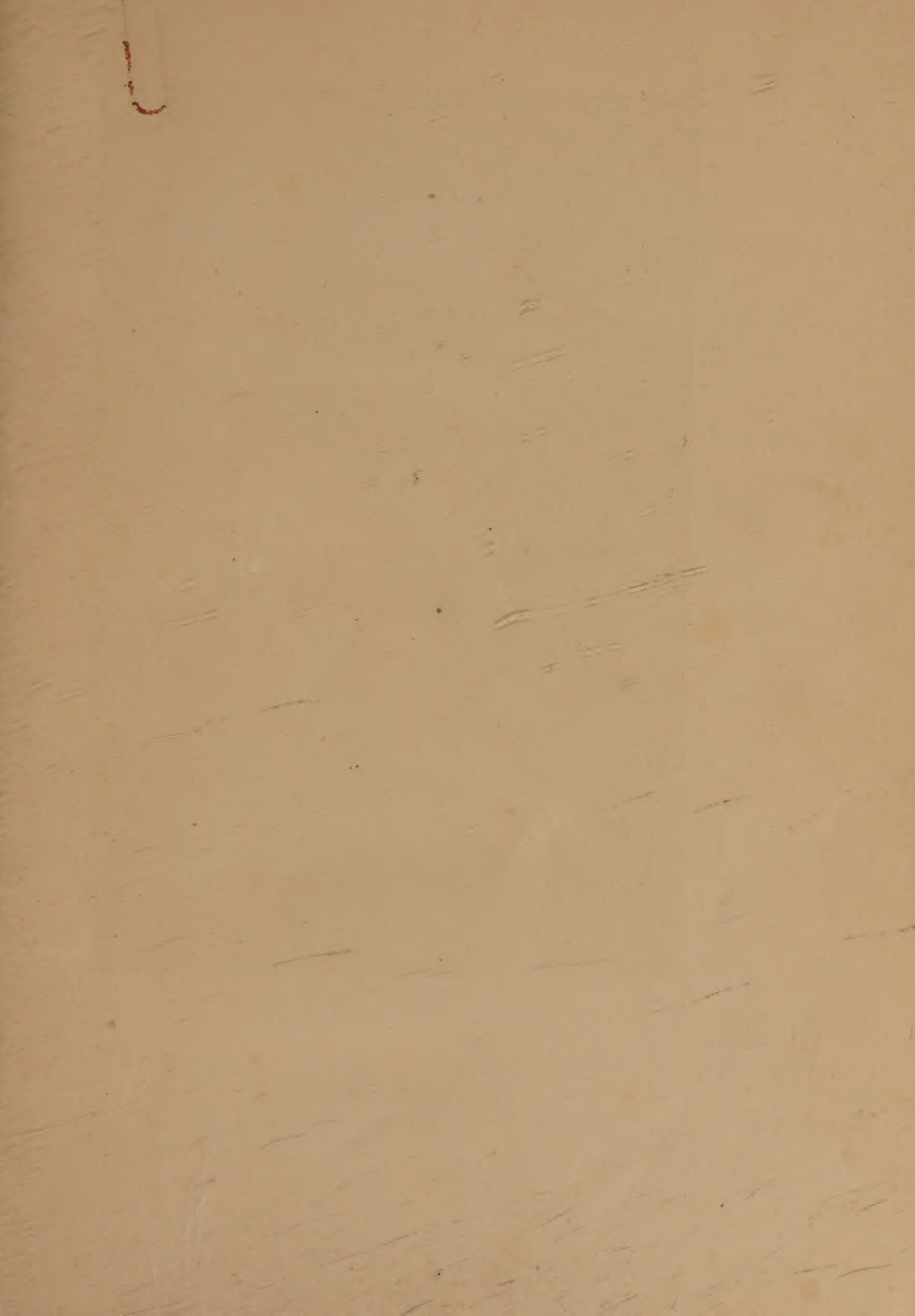
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A Child's Story of the New Testament (one syl.)

THE SHIP-WRECK OF ST. PAUL.

ALTEMUS' ONE SYLLABLE SERIES

A CHILD'S STORY
OF THE
NEW TESTAMENT

IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE

WITH THIRTY-NINE ILLUSTRATIONS

PHILADELPHIA
HENRY ALTEMUS COMPANY

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INTRODUCTORY

RELIGIOUS instruction of her children is often one of the most difficult of a young mother's varied duties. This book, and its companion volumes in the same series, have been especially written to simplify and make easy this puzzling task. How can religious teaching be more interestingly accomplished than in granting the little one's oft-repeated requests for "a story?"

The tales and the precepts which a little child learns at its mother's knee are those which it remembers as long as life endures. It is scarcely possible to begin this form of instruction too early. The sole difficulty lies in making it sufficiently simple and sufficiently interesting. Both of these difficulties are solved by these little books. Compiled by one who is familiar with the needs of young children, they are admirably simple and accurate paraphrases of the stately and sometimes involved language of the Bible. Furthermore, great care has been exercised in selecting tales that will appeal to the child's interest and imagination, with due regard for terseness and brevity. Each of the books in the series aims to whet the child's appetite for literature, so that when he becomes older he will take up reading as a delight and a pastime.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

	PAGE
The Birth of Christ	9

CHAPTER II

The First Mir-a-cle—The Wo-man at the Well	19
--	----

CHAPTER III

Je-sus Heals the Sick	24
---------------------------------	----

CHAPTER IV

Jai-rus' Daugh-ter Raised from the Dead—The Wo-man Healed Who Touched the Hem of Je-sus' Robe—Of Two Blind Men—Of a Man at the Pool of Be-thes-da —The Twelve A-pos-tles—The Ser-mon on the Mount —The Son of the Wid-ow of Nain Raised from the Dead—A Wo-man Wash-es Je-sus' Feet with Her Tears	31
--	----

CHAPTER V

The Par-a-bles of Our Lord—Of the Rich Man—Of the Sow-er—Of the Man Who Found a Prize—Of the Pearl	46
--	----

CHAPTER VI

Je-sus Stills the Storm—Feeds the Vast Throng—Stills the Waves Once More—Heals the Sick	50
--	----

CHAPTER VII

The Deaf and Dumb Man—Cures the Man Born Blind— Je-sus, and Mo-ses, and E-li-as—Je-sus Goes up to Je-ru-sa-lem—The Par-a-ble of the Good Sa-mar-i-tan	
---	--

—At the House of Ma-ry and Mar-tha—The Par-a-ble of the Prod-i-gal Son	55
---	----

CHAPTER VIII

The Par-a-ble of the Rich Man and Laz-a-rus—Bless-es the Chil-dren—Laz-a-rus Raised from the Dead . . .	66
--	----

CHAPTER IX

Blind Bar-tim-eus Healed—Zac-che-us Called—Je-sus En-ters Je-ru-sa-lem—He Teach-es in the Tem-ple . .	73
--	----

CHAPTER X

Ju-das Be-trays Je-sus—Je-sus Keeps the Great Feast— The Last Sup-per—In the Gar-den of Geth-sem-ane— The Ju-das Kiss—Je-sus is Brought Be-fore the High Priest—The Court Dooms Him to Death—The Death of Ju-das—The Field of Blood	79
---	----

CHAPTER XI

Je-sus is Bound and Brought to be Judged by Pi-late—He Sends Him to He-rod, Who Mocks Him, and Sends Him Back—Je-sus is Nailed to the Cross—His Death —A Watch is Set on His Grave by the Jews	87
---	----

CHAPTER XII

Je-sus Leaves the Grave—The Wo-men at the Tomb—Two An-gels Ap-pear to Them and Tell Them, "He is Ris-en"—Je-sus Ap-pears to Ma-ry Mag-da-lene, to Two Dis-ci-ples on Their Way to Em-ma-us, and to All the Dis-ci-ples—The Doubts of Thom-as—Je-sus Goes Up to Heav-en—The Dis-ci-ples are Filled With the Holy Ghost—They Go Off to Preach the Word . . .	98
--	----

A CHILD'S STORY OF THE
NEW TESTAMENT



THE STORY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

CHAPTER I.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

AT THE time He-rod was king of the Jews there lived a priest whose name was Zach-a-ri-us. His wife's name was E-liz-a-beth. They had no child, and this was a great trial to them. One day while the priest was at work in the House of God an an-gel came to him and said,

Thy wife shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. He shall be great in the sight of the Lord ; and shall tell men of the Sa-viour who is to come. The priest doubted this. Then the an-gel said, My name is Ga-bri-el (which means Man of God), and I stand near to God, who sent me with this good news ; but since you doubt my word you shall be dumb till what I tell you comes to pass.

So the priest lost his voice and for some months he could not speak a word. The babe was born, and when he was eight days old it was time to name him and give him to the Lord. When they made signs to the priest and asked what he would have him called, he wrote, His name is John. And then his voice came back, and he spake out loud and blessed the Lord.

All the folks were full of awe and fear. They did not know what the an-gel had told, and that this babe was one day to be the great John the Bap-tist.

The same an-gel was sent to tell Ma-ry that she, too, should have a son. He said she must name the child Je-sus, And he shall be called the Son of God, for he was the One the Lord had said was to come down to the world and save men from Sa-tan.



THE AN-GEL SPOKE TO THEM

✧ And Ma-ry said, Let the Lord's will be done to me. Ma-ry was the wife of Jo-seph, and though they were poor they were of good birth, for they were of the House of Da-vid. At this time Rome ruled the Jews. A law had been made that all the Jews should go to the town from which the head of their house sprang, so that they might be counted and pay a tax. Beth-le-hem was the town of Da-vid, so Jo-seph and Ma-ry went there; but as the town was crowded there was no room for them in the inn, and so they had to go to an old cow shed for the night. While they were there Ma-ry's babe was born; and as there was no bed in the shed, she wrapped him in bands which she had with her, and laid him in a trough in which hay was kept for the beasts. ✧

That night some men who were with their flocks of sheep in the fields near Beth-le-hem saw a bright light in the sky, and an an-gel came down and said to them, Fear not, for I bring you good news. To you, is born this day, in the town of Da-vid, a Sa-viour, who is Christ the Lord. By this sign you shall know the babe; He is wrapped in long bands and lies in the trough from which the beasts feed. Then a host of an-gels came and sang: Praise be to



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THE IN-FANT JE-SUS

God on high, and on earth peace, good will to men!

The men were dazed by these strange sights and sounds ; but their hearts were full of joy and at once they went in haste and found Ma-ry, and Jo-seph, and the babe, and bowed down to Him. On their way back to their flocks and herds they told the good news to all whom they met.

Ages before this time the seers had said that this child should reign in the hearts of men, and, on earth, should teach them how they by his own life ought to live. But the Jews thought they meant that he would be a great king like Da-vid and Sol-o-mon.

Near the time that Je-sus was born, some wise and rich men from a far off land came to Je-ru-sa-lem and said, Where is he that is born King of the Jews ? for we have seen his star in the East, and have come to see him and pay our vows to him.

He-rod was vexed when he heard these words, for he feared this new king would one day take his crown from him. He made up his mind to get rid of the child at once. So he bade the wise men go and find him ; and when they had seen the boy to come back and tell him where



THE WISE MEN PRE-SENT-ED GIFTS

he was so that he, too, might go to see him and bring gifts.

Then the wise men set out once more, and lo, the bright star went in front of them till it came to the spot where the child was. Then they went in and bowed to Je-sus and gave him the gold and myrrh they had brought for him. God warned them in a dream not to let He-rod know where Je-sus was ; so they went home by a new way. When they were gone, an an-gel of the Lord came to Jo-seph, in a dream, and said, Take thy wife and babe and flee to E-gypt, for He-rod will seek the young child to slay him. So Jo-seph fled to E-gypt, and stayed there as long as He-rod lived.

For some time He-rod watched for the wise men to come back, but when they did not come he was wroth and sent men to Beth-le-hem to kill all the boys who were less than two years old. He did not know that Je-sus was safe in E-gypt.

When He-rod was dead, an an-gel came in a dream to Jo-seph, and said, Rise and take thy wife and thy son and go back to the land of Is-ra-el. So they went back and made their home in the town of Naz-a-reth.

Each year Jo-seph and Ma-ry went to Je-ru-



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THY LAW IS MY DE-LIGHT.



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JO-SEPH AND MA-RY FIND JE-SUS

sa-lem to a great feast which God said the Jews should hold once a year. When Je-sus was twelve years old they took him with them to this feast, and when it was at an end and they set out on their way back home, he did not come with them. When they missed their son, they thought he was with some of their friends, but when night came on and they could not find him, their hearts grew sad and they turned back full of grief and fear.

At the end of three days they found him in the tem-ple where he sat with the priests and wise men and talked to them as if he were as old and as wise as they were. Then Je-sus went home with Jo-seph and Ma-ry, and grew in grace as he grew in age.

All this time no one knew that he was the Christ for whom all men watched, though John the Bap-tist told the Jews that the One they looked for would soon come to save them. John lived in the wild woods, ate poor food, and wore clothes made of coarse hair. His work was to tell of the Christ who was to come, and to teach men and to bap-tize all who wished to give up their sins. This is why he was called the Bap-tist.

One day as John walked on the banks of the Jor-dan, Je-sus came to him to be bap-tized, and

as soon as this was done, a bright light shone in the sky in the shape of a dove and came down and rested on the head of Je-sus, and a voice from the sky was heard to say, This is my dear Son, in whom I am well pleased!

CHAPTER II.

THE FIRST MIR-A-CLE—THE WO-MAN AT THE WELL

JE-SUS was grown now to be a man, and it was time for him to leave his home and go where he could do the most good. As soon as he was bap-tized, he went to live for a time in the woods, where he had no one to speak to and no food to eat. The bad man came to him in these woods and tried to tempt him in all sorts of ways, but Je-sus paid no heed to him. Get thee hence, Sa-tan! cried Je-sus, and he flies to tempt him no more, and the hosts of God came to soothe and feed him who has borne so much.

When some time after this John saw him, he cried out: This is the Lamb of God, who bears the sins of the world. Two men, named John and An-drew, heard this, and they went to Je-sus and asked him where he lived. He said: Come

and see. So they went home with him; and An-drew brought his brother Pe-ter, and said, We have found the Christ! The next day two more men, Phil-ip and Na-than-ael, came to Je-sus, and they all went with him to a feast. Ma-ry was at the feast, too, and when the wine was all gone, she told her son they had need of more wine. Je-sus bade them fill six stone jars full of water, and then draw it out; and when they did this, they found the water had turned to wine. This was the first great act Je-sus did, and those who saw it took it as a sign that he was the Son of God, for no mere man could do such a thing.

From Ca-na Je-sus went to Ca-per-na-um, and in a few days kept on to Je-ru-sa-lem to the Great Feast. There he saw some men sell lambs and doves in the House of God; and he drove them out, for he said his Fa-ther's house was a place to pray in, and no one should buy and sell there.

While he was in Je-ru-sa-lem, at the feast, Je-sus did such great and strange things, that some folks had faith in him, but their faith was weak, and Je-sus dared not trust in them. One of the men who had some faith, and wished to know more of Je-sus, was named Nic-o-de-mus.



THE BOY-HOOD OF JESUS

He came to Je-sus by night, and asked him how and why he wrought these great works. Je-sus told him God had sent him to be King of the Jews, to set up his realm in their hearts, and help them to quit their sins, and be pure and good like new born babes. He said that Je-sus must die to save the world, and that all those who turned to the Son of God on the cross, would be saved, just as those Is-ra-el-ites, whom the snakes bit, were saved, when they looked at the brass snake on the pole. From that time Nic-o-de-mus was a good friend to Je-sus, and must have thought of this talk when he saw him die on the cross.

On his way through Sa-ma-ri-a Je-sus stopped at a deep cool well to rest and quench his thirst. The folks of that land did not like the Jews nor did the Jews like them. It was the noon hour, and a wom-an with her jar on her head came to the well. Je-sus asked her for a drink; she said she thought it was strange for a Jew to ask her for a drink. But he told her if she knew with whom she spoke, she would be glad to ask him for a gift. They had a long talk, and when she found that he knew who she was, and all her acts, she said he must be a great seer. Je-sus told her he was more than a seer, for he was the Christ. Then she ran to her friends and said, Come



THE BOY JE-SUS

see a man who told me all the things I have done in my whole life—is not this the Christ?

A crowd soon poured out through the gate of the town to see this strange Jew, who knows the life of every one, and hear the Word from him.

CHAPTER III.

JE-SUS HEALS THE SICK.

AT THE end of two days Je-sus left Sa-ma-ri-a, and kept on to Gal-i-lee. A rich man who dwelt at the Court of the King, came and begged him to go home with him, and heal his son, who was sick.

This man had heard of Je-sus, and he had faith to think he could cure his son, if he would but come and touch him. To show him that he could do still more than this, Je-sus said, Go thy way, thy son is well. Full of joy and thanks the rich man felt sure he should find his boy well, though Je-sus did not go near him. And such was the case, for on his way home he met some of the men of his house who had come to bring him the good news that the lad was healed. From that day he and his whole house owned that Je-sus was the Son of God.



JE-SUS TURNS WA-TER IN-TO WINE

All who could do so now brought their sick to Je-sus to be healed. But the men of Naz-a-reth, the town in which Je-sus had been brought up, did not love and trust him. Once when he was in this town he went to church, and they asked him to read to them and preach. Je-sus stands up to read, and makes choice of the part where one of the old seers told the Jews of the Sa-viour, who would one day come to help the sick and the sad, give sight to the blind, and bring good news to all. Then he closed the book, and said, These words have come to pass, for I am the Christ of whom the seer spoke. I am the Son of God, and he sent me to heal the sick, to make the deaf hear, the blind see, the lame walk, and to speak words of peace and joy to all men.

These words filled the Jews with rage and scorn. In their fierce wrath they thrust him out of the town and led him to the edge of a high hill to cast him down and kill him. But Je-sus' time to die had not come; so he passed through the midst of them and went his way.

As he stood on the shore of the sea one day great crowds came out to meet him. He stepped in Pe-ter's boat and asked him to push it out from the bank, so that all the crowd could see and hear

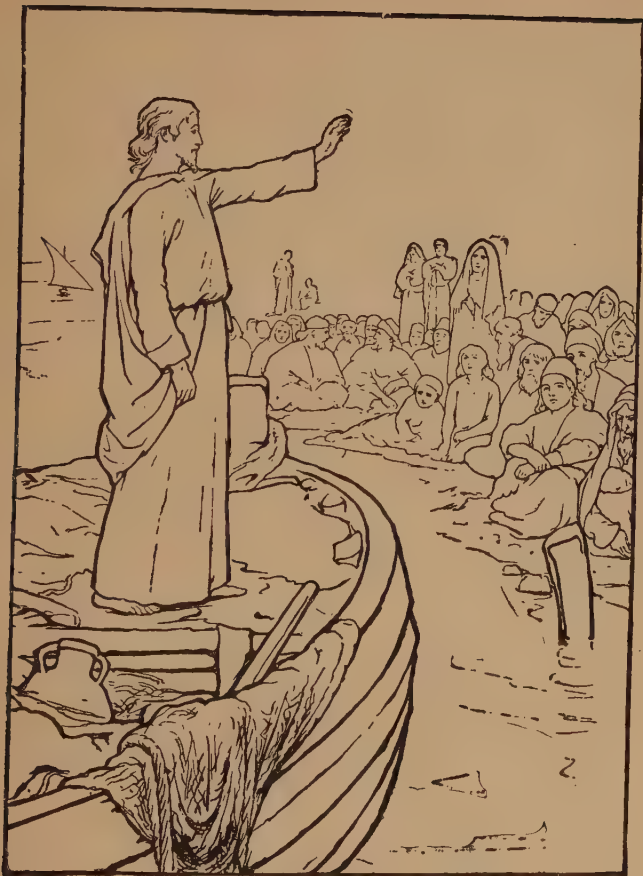


JESUS AND THE WO-MAN OF SA-MA-RI-A

him. Then he sat in the boat, and taught the folks who were on the shore. When he got through he said to those in the boat. Launch out to the deep sea and let down your nets for a draught. Pe-ter said, We have worked all night and have caught no fish, but at thy word we will let down the nets once more. They did this, and the net was so full of fish that it broke with their weight. James and John, who were in the next boat, went to help them, and the load of fish was like to sink both ships.

When Pe-ter saw this, he fell at the feet of Je-sus, and owned his sins. Je-sus said, Fear not, but come with me and I will teach you to catch men. So Pe-ter, An-drew, James, and John left their ships and nets and all that they had, and went with Je-sus, as they felt sure he was in truth the Son of God. He now had six friends with him, and in the course of time more came, till at last he had quite a large band.

The next Sab-bath day Je-sus preached, as was his wont. There was a man in the church who had a fiend and he cried out and said, What have we to do with thee, thou Je-sus of Naz-a-reth? I know thee who thou art, the Ho-ly One of God. Je-sus bade the fiend be still and come out of the man; then it cried with a loud voice



JE-SUS TEACH-ES THE PEO-PL

and came out, and at once the man was well and in his right mind. He made all the sick folks well that night; and next day, long ere it was light, he stole off to a lone spot where he might talk to his Fa-ther and pray.

But he had not prayed long ere Pe-ter and the rest came and said, All men seek thee. Je-sus told them he could not stay in this place all the time, but must now go to the next town to preach. And he taught in all the towns, and his fame spread, and great crowds went to hear him. Near one of these towns a man full of sores came and knelt at the feet of Je-sus and said, Lord, thou canst make me clean. Je-sus said, I will; be thou clean, and he was made clean, and went off and told far and wide what Je-sus had done for him.

The next day such a crowd came to see him that they could not all get in the house where he was. A poor, sick man, who could not walk, was brought on his couch by his friends, and as they could not get in the door, they went to the top of the house and let it down through the roof. When Je-sus saw their faith, he said to the sick man, Thou art freed from thy sins.

The scribes were not pleased when they heard this; they thought none but God could cure a man of sin. As Je-sus could read all hearts, he

knew what they thought, so he told them he could make this man free from sin just as well as he could make him walk. So he turns to the sick man, and says, Rise, take up thy couch and go to thine house. The man did as he was bid, and when the scribes saw him walk off with his bed, they gave praise to God and said, We have seen strange things this day.

Je-sus went once more to the lake; and in his walk he saw a man named Mat-thew, and said to him, Come with me. And he left his place and his work to go to Je-sus. It was he who wrote the Life of Christ which goes by his name.

CHAPTER IV.

JAI-RUS' DAUGH-TER RAISED FROM THE DEAD—
THE WOM-AN HEALED WHO TOUCHED THE
HEM OF JE-SUS' ROBE—OF TWO BLIND MEN—
OF A MAN AT THE POOL OF BE-THES-DA—THE
TWELVE A-POS-TLES—THE SER-MON ON THE
MOUNT—THE SON OF THE WID-OW OF NAIN
RAISED FROM THE DEAD—A WOM-AN WASHES
JE-SUS' FEET WITH HER TEARS.

WHEN Je-sus got back to his own shore a great crowd were on the watch for him, and while he spoke to them, a man came and

knelt at his feet. All knew him, for it is Jai-rus, who rules a church in the town, and is much thought of. He begs Je-sus to come with him, to his one dear child, a girl twelve years old, who is at the point of death. I pray thee come and she shall live!

Je-sus rose at once and went with him. The crowd go, too, and more and more join them as they go on. In the crowd is a poor wom-an who has been sick for twelve long years. She has spent all she had on men of skill, but all in vain. She had lost all hope of help, but now she hears of Je-sus, and is sure if she can but touch the fringe on his robe, it will make her well. So she creeps up and puts out her hand that she may touch him and fly. The touch makes her well! and with a heart full of joy she gives way to the crowd, and thinks no one knows what great thing has been done to her. But at once Je-sus turns on the crowd, and asks whose touch it was that he had felt.

For said he the touch of faith had been felt by him, and a cure had been wrought in the crowd. His eye finds her in all the crowd, and she who yet so thrills with what has been done to her, sees that she can not hide and falls down at his feet, and tells him and the crowd the whole tale.



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THE WON-DER-FUL DRAUGHT OF FISH-ES

Je-sus spoke to her in kind tones, and said, My child, be of good cheer, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

While on their way came the sad news to Jai-rus: It is of no use to seek help, thy child is dead. This was a great shock to poor Jai-rus, but Je-sus is at hand to hold him up. Fear not, Je-sus says to him, If you have but faith, she shall be made whole.

When Je-sus reached the house he would let none of the crowd go in with him but Pe-ter, and James, and John. He said to those who were there, Give place! the maid is not dead, but sleeps. At these words the tears of the folks change to a laugh of scorn. But Je-sus goes in to the room of death with Jai-rus and his wife, and his own three friends, and takes hold of the girl's hand and bids her rise up. At his word the soul came back, and the maid rose up as if from a deep sleep—and Je-sus bids them give her food.

As Je-sus left the house of Jai-rus two blind men fol-lowed him as they went and cried, Thou Son of Da-vid, help us! But Je-sus did not heal them till he got home. Then he said to them, Have you faith that I can do this for you? and they said, Yes, Lord. Then he laid his hand on their eyes and said, As is your faith, so be it to



JAI-RUS' CHILD IS BROUGHT TO LIFE

you. We know how great their faith must have been, for their blind eyes saw once more, and though Je-sus bade them tell no one, they went and spread the fame of him who gave them sight.

In Je-ru-sa-lem there was a place called the sheep gate, and near this was the pool of Bethes-da, which means House of Mer-cy. Here the sick and the blind and the lame used to lie and wait for the wa-ter to be moved by an an-gel who came down and stirred up the wa-ter, and then the one who stepped in it first, was cured of his ills. One day Je-sus saw at this pool a man, who had been lame, near two score years. He said to him, Wilt thou be made whole? And the man said, Sir, I have no one to put me in when the wa-ter is rough. Then Je-sus said, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk, and the man felt strength come to his weak limbs. He rose, took up his couch, and walked off. As it was the Lord's day, the Phar-i-sees, who were rich and proud Jews, were shocked, and said to him, It is a sin for thee to bear thy bed on the Lord's day. But he told them the man who cured him, bade him do it. When they found out it was Je-sus, their rage was great, and they thought to kill him. Je-sus told them not to judge the Son of



JE-SUS GIVES SIGHT TO THE TWO BLIND MEN.

God, but they would not heed his words, nor cease to find fault with him.

In the church one day, was a man whose right hand was so twisted with pain he could not stretch it out nor use it at all. So he said to the man, Rise up and stand where all may see you. Then he turned to the Phar-i-sees and said, I will ask you one thing: Is it right to do good on this day or to do wrong? Then he bade the man to stretch forth his right hand, and at once it grew straight and strong like the left one. The Phar-i-sees grew mad with rage, and once more wanted to kill Je-sus; but his hour was not yet come, so he went from that place. Crowds came to him to see the works he did, and the sick crept near, so that they might touch him and be healed.

It was in church and on the Lord's day that Je-sus once caught sight of a wom-an whose back was bent so that she could not raise her head. She had been this way for near a score of years. When Je-sus saw her sad state his heart was touched. He did not wait for her to ask for help, but called her to him, laid his hands on her, and healed her. Then she stood up straight and gave praise to God. Je-sus saw the chief man of the church was vexed and said to him, Do you not on the Lord's day loose your ox or

your ass from the stall and lead him out to drink? And should not I on this day loose this poor wom-an from the bond with which she hath been bound all these years? At these words his friends were full of joy and, for once, his foes felt a sense of shame.

Je-sus now called twelve men to be his a-pos-tles. An a-pos-tle means, one sent. Their names were:

Si-mon Pe-ter,	Le-vi (or Mat-thew),
An-drew,	Thom-as,
James,	James (2d),
John,	Thad-de-us (or Leb-be-us),
Phil-ip,	Si-mon (2d),
Na-than-ael	Ju-das Is-ca-ri-ot.

All of these but Ju-das were from Gal-i-lee.

Je-sus said they were to take no gold with them, and no clothes but those they wore. He said they should heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out fiends, just as they saw him do; and when they came to a house or town on the way they should say, Peace be to this house, or this town; but if the folks there would not hear their words, they should do no good works in that place, but should shake the dust of it off their feet and go on to the next house or town.

He told the twelve that they would have a hard time. That they would be like sheep in the midst of wolves, and they must be on their guard all the time. But to cheer them he told them that God, who took such care of the least of birds, that one of them could not fall to the ground and he did not see it, would care for them who were far more dear to him. And, most of all, that he would count all that was done to them as if it were done to him.

One day Je-sus went up on a high hill and a large crowd came to him there, and he preached what is called the Ser-mon on the Mount, and said, Blest are the meek and those who grieve for their sins, for God is with them. Blest are those who long to be good, more than they long for food and drink. Blest are those who do not fuss and fight, and those who are kind to their foes, as well as their friends. He said, Bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them that do ill to you. He warned them not to pray, and give alms just to be seen of men; but that they must go to their rooms to pray, that they must not let men know when they gave alms, and did good works.

When Je-sus went back to the town it was not to rest, though he had not done so for hours.



THE SER-MON ON THE MOUNT

There were troops in the town, and at the head of them was a man who, though not a Jew, had won the love of the Jews.

Now this man had a slave who lay at the point of death. He had heard of the cures Je-sus had made, and wants his help. He asks some of the chief Jews to go for him and beg Je-sus to come to his house. These Jews plead the case so well that Je-sus goes with them.

When the group had got near the house, he at whose call Je-sus had come, said : Lord, I am not fit to have you en-ter my house. But say the word, and I know my slave shall live.

When Je-sus heard these words he turned to all who were there and said : I say to you all, that I have not found such great faith as this; no, not in all Is-ra-el ! He told the ru-ler to go his way, and it would be to him as he wished. And the slave was made whole that same hour.

As Je-sus drew near the gate of a town called Nain, a sad sight met his gaze. A long line of folks bore the corpse of a young man, the only son of a wid-ow. Her grief was great, but Je-sus soon changed it to joy. He told her not to weep ; and when they that bore the bier stood still, he touched it, and bade the young man rise. At these words life comes back to him that

was dead, love to his heart, and words come to his lips. He sits upon the bier and speaks, and Je-sus gives the son back to the arms of her who thought she had held him there for the last time, and the crowd spreads the great news through all the land.

A rich Jew named Si-mon asked Je-sus to dine with him. Je-sus goes to the proud man's feast just as he goes to a poor man's house. It is all one to him, for he looks at the man and not at his things. This proud man is not a well bred host, and does not treat Je-sus as men in those days were wont to treat guests. He did not greet him with a kiss, nor pour oil on his head, nor give him wa-ter to wash his feet, as was the cus-tom in that land.

Je-sus takes his seat at the board. They did not sit on chairs when they ate, as we do. They half lay on a couch, with the feet thrown back. While Je-sus sat at meat, there crept in a wom-an who has heard he has a guest there. She has led a bad life, and at the sight of Je-sus' pure face her tears fall in such floods that she bathes the dust from Je-sus' feet with them, and then wipes them with her long hair, and gives kiss on kiss to those way-worn feet. Then she takes a box of rare

oil and pours it on his feet, that she may cool and rest them.

Si-mon sees all this, and in his heart says Je-sus is no seer; or he would know what a bad life hers has been. But the voice of Je-sus breaks on his ear. Si-mon, I have a word for thee. Say on, says the host, who does not think that his heart has been read like a book by him who speaks. Je-sus says to Si-mon, There was once a man to whom two men were in debt. One man owed a small sum and one owed a large sum. But as they have no means, the man to whom they were in debt said he would let them each go free. Now which of them will feel the most love for the man who has been so kind to them? Si-mon says, I should think that he who had been most in debt would love him most.

You are right, says Je-sus to his host, then he turns to her who weeps at his feet, and says, Si-mon, do you see her who kneels here? I came to your house, but you sent no one to bathe the dust from my feet, while she pours out her own tears to wash them, and wipes them with the hairs of her own head.

When I came in you did not give me the kiss on the cheek with which a host in our land is wont to greet his guests, but she rains kiss on



WASH-ES JE-SUS' FEET WITH HER TEARS

kiss on my feet, and has done so with no pause since I came in! You brought no oil for my head, as is the way at our feasts, but she pours out on my feet her choice balm. For this cause I say to you, I will blot out all her sins, though they are, as you think them, and as she thinks them, not few; for she loves much. But he who thinks he does not owe much will not feel much love to him who frees him from the debt. Then, with a look full of love on the poor soul at his feet, he said, I blot out thy sins; thy faith saves thee; go in peace.

Of course, Si-mon and those who sat at meat with him were shocked at these words, and would not own that Je-sus had a right so to speak, though he had told them he was the Son of God.

CHAPTER V.

THE PAR-A-BLES OF OUR LORD—OF THE RICH MAN—OF THE SOW-ER—OF THE MAN WHO FOUND A PRIZE—OF THE PEARL.

A PAR-A-BLE is a short tale that means more than it says, and Je-sus was wont to make use of such tales to teach some great truth. He would not say just what he meant, but would tell

a par-a-ble and then leave the peo-ple to find out what it meant.

To show how wrong it is to put one's trust in wealth, he told them this tale: There was a rich man whose barns were too small to hold all his crops. So he said, I will pull down my barns and build some new large ones, in which I can put all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul: Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for long years to come; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be gay. But God said to him: Thou fool, this night thou shalt die; then whose shall those things be which thou hast laid up?

Now this tale was meant to teach that as men brought naught with them when they came to this world so they could take naught with them when they had to leave it.

One day while Je-sus sat in a boat near the shore he taught the crowds as they stood on the beach. He spake to them the par-a-ble of the sow-er. A man went out to sow seeds, and some seeds fell by the side of the way and the fowls of the air came and ate them. Some fell on rocks, where there was not much earth, and they sprang up at once; but, as they did not have much root, they dried up soon. Some fell where there were thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them,

so that they brought forth no fruit. And some fell on good ground, and grew fast and bore a great deal of fruit.

When the crowd had gone home the dis-ci-ples asked Je-sus: What does this tale mean? Then he told them that the seeds were the words of God, and that by the man who sowed the seeds he meant all those who teach or preach the Word of God. The seed that fell by the side of the way were those who had a hard heart, that had not learned to love God or man. For from such Sa-tan could pick the word with as much ease as birds could pick seed off of a hard path. The seeds that fell on rocks were like folks who heard God's words with joy, but their hearts had not much depth, and as soon as they were called on to do some hard thing they quit their good works and had no more life in them than had the seeds that dried up when the sun shone on them. The seeds that were choked by the thorns were those who fell a prey to the cares and joys of the world. They will bring forth no fruit, for the good things of this life will so starve their souls that they will have no time nor love for good works. The seed that fell on good ground are those who take the words and keep them and live them, and will bring forth much fruit—to the praise of God.

Still two more tales, the last that Je-sus made use of at that time, were to teach the great worth of the things of God. The first was of a man who found a rich prize hid in a field, and so great was his joy at this good luck that he went off in haste and sold all that he had to raise funds to buy the field. For the sake of the prize he gave all his goods; and in the same way should men be glad to give up all they have for the sake of Je-sus. He is the best prize, and those who win him can not be poor, though they should have naught else. The next told of a man who won a great prize. He was a man who dealt in pearls. His work was to buy and sell these gems, and one day, in the way of trade he saw a fine large pearl that he knew was worth more than the rest. So he bought this pearl, though he had to sell all he had to raise the large sum it took to buy this choice gem. Je-sus is the pearl of great price, and men may well be glad to part with all the world calls rich and great if they may but win so fair a prize as the love of Je-sus.

CHAPTER VI.

JE-SUS STILLS THE STORM—FEEDS THE VAST
THRONG—STILLS THE WAVES ONCE MORE—
HEALS THE SICK.

THAT same day when Je-sus had made an end of all the par-a-bles, he went on the sea with his dis-ci-ples, and as he was tired he lay down in the back part of the boat and went to sleep. While he slept a great storm came up, and the dis-ci-ples shook with fear. They waked Je-sus and said : Lord, save us or we shall be drowned. Then Je-sus rose and calmed the wind and waves. He just said, Peace, be still ! and at once the wind ceased and the waves went down. Then he said to the dis-ci-ples, Why do ye fear? How is it that ye have no faith?

Then Je-sus and the twelve a-pos-tles crossed the sea of Gal-i-lee in search of a place where they might rest and gain strength for their work. The crowds stayed all the time. Tired as Je-sus was he taught and preached, and healed the sick all day. When night came the a-pos-tles said to him: The folks have naught to eat; send them to the towns near by where they may buy



JE-SUS FEEDS THE CROWD

bread. But Je-sus said, They need not leave this place; give ye them to eat. The twelve stare at him, and say they have naught but five loaves and two small fish, and there were five thou-sand men to feed. Je-sus told them to make the crowd sit down on the grass. Then he took the five loaves and two small fish and blessed them and broke them in bits to be handed to the men. Each man had as much as he could eat, and Je-sus told them to save all the scraps that were left; and they picked up twelve trays full of scraps, which was more than they had to start with.

This moves the crowd more than all the signs they have seen him do. How grand it would be to have a king who could feed us all the time like this and take care of us! they said. We could lie on the green sward and hear him talk, and have no hard tax to pay to Rome, and no hard work to do!

So they wished to make Je-sus their king at once. But he knew this must not be; so he bade his dis-ci-ples set sail and leave him there. Then he sent the crowd off, too, and when they were all gone he went up to the top of the high hill, to watch and pray. It was a clear night in the spring of the year, and by the bright light of

the moon Je-sus could see his dis-ci-ples in their boat on the lake. A sharp gust comes down on the lake from the hills, and for hours do what they would, they could not keep the boat in the right track.

At last Je-sus went to their aid and, at the same time, gave them a new proof of his might. He stepped in the sea and walked out to the boat. And they were filled with fear. But Je-sus said, Be of good cheer; fear not; it is I. Pe-ter said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come to thee. Je-sus said, Come! Pe-ter leaps down from the ship and steps out with a brave air. But he looks at the waves and not at Je-sus, and so, of course, he sinks. His faith is not so strong as his fears. But as he sinks he cries to Je-sus, Lord, save me! At once Je-sus stretched forth his hand and caught him, and said, Oh thou of small faith why didst thou doubt?

The folks on shore knew Je-sus and came from all parts of the land to beg his aid. They brought their sick friends on beds and Je-sus cured all who had faith.

Then he told the Jews that he was the bread of life, and that God had sent him to give life to the world. They asked him what sign he could give to prove that God sent him. Je-sus said

they had seen him, not just his face and his form, but his life and his works, and they ought to know that no one but God could do such things as he did. This was too much for their faith; they could trust him as their king, but not as their God. How dare he say that he is the bread of life, and came down from on high, when we know so well whose son he is. They said he was the son of Jo-seph and Ma-ry, so he must be a man; as a man he might be a great king or a wise seer, but could not be the Lord.

That day a host of those who had been with Je-sus up to this time went back home, and walked no more with him.

Je-sus then asked the twelve: Will ye, too, leave me? Peter said, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of life, and we know thou art the Christ, the Son of God.

CHAPTER VII.

THE DEAF AND DUMB MAN—CURES THE MAN BORN BLIND—JE-SUS, AND MO-SES, AND ELI-AS—JE-SUS GOES UP TO JE-RU-SA-LEM—THE PAR-A-BLE OF THE GOOD SA-MAR-I-TAN—AT THE HOUSE OF MA-RY AND MAR-THA—THE PAR-A-BLE OF THE PROD-I-GAL SON.

THEN Je-sus went back to the Sea of Gal-ilee. Here they brought to him a man who was deaf and whose tongue was tied, so that he could not speak plain.

Je-sus led him to one side and touched his ears and his tongue. At once he heard all that was said by the men near him, and he spoke as well as they did.

Je-sus told them to tell no man, but they spread the news, and said, He hath done all things well; he hath made the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak.

Great crowds came and brought the sick, the lame, the deaf, the dumb, and the blind and cast them at the feet of Je-sus to be healed. Je-sus cured them all, and they stayed with him day and night, and gave thanks for what he had done for them. Then Je-sus came to a town

called Mag-da-la. The Phar-i-sees and Sad-du-cees came to him there and asked him to give them a sign from God. They wished for a chance to find fault with him. Je-sus knew that they wished to set a trap for him ; so he said they should have no sign but the sign of Jo-nah. By this he meant to tell them that as Jo-nah was in the whale three days so he (Je-sus) would be buried for three days in the earth ere he rose from the dead.

Je-sus went on. And they brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. And as he spit on his eyes and put his hands on him he asked him if he saw aright. And he looked up and said, I see men walk, but they look like trees. Once more Je-sus put his hands on his eyes and this time all things looked clear and plain to him. Then Je-sus told him not to tell it to those on the way.

Je-sus thought it was time now to give his a-pos-tles the right view of the great work for which he came to earth ; so he told them that the way in which he was to save men was to die for them on the cross. He said he must go to Je-ru-sa-lem, and that the chief priests and scribes would cause him to be put to death there, but on the third day he would rise from the dead. And



THE GOOD SHEP-HERD

he said, too, that his throne was on high, and that those who wished to share it with him must share his cross on earth.

From that day Je-sus did not cease to speak at times, of his death, which was now near at hand.

One day he went to the top of a high hill to pray. He took Pe-ter and James and John with him, and there he let them see him in a new strange light. While he prayed his face shone as the sun and his clothes were as white as snow. All at once two men stood by his side; they were Mo-ses and Eli-as, who died long ere Je-sus was born. The a-pos-tles knew who these men were and wished to stay up there on the mount with them; so Pe-ter said, Lord, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tents—one for thee, one for Mo-ses, and one for Eli-as. While he yet spake they heard a voice say: This is my much loved Son; hear ye him. They fell to the ground in great fear; but Je-sus drew near, touched them, and said, Rise and fear not. They rose at once, but they saw no one but Je-sus. The bright cloud had passed, too, and they heard the voice no more.

Je-sus charged them not to speak of this thing till he should rise from the dead.



HIS FACE SHONE AS THE SUN

A great feast of the Jews was now at hand and Je-sus spoke words to the crowds that filled them with fear. The Jews heard him say to those in the Tem-ple: For a short while I shall be with you, and then I shall go back to my Fa-ther who sent me. When I am gone ye shall look for me and shall not find me; and where I am ye can not come, for—since ye have no faith in me—ye shall die in your sins. But those who trust me shall not die, but shall live with my Fa-ther.

Then they said: Who art thou, and who is thy Fa-ther? Is he as great as our fa-ther A-bra-ham?

Je-sus told them that A-bra-ham had had faith in him, and had wished to see the day when he should come to earth. Then they said that could not be true, that A-bra-ham had died long ere Je-sus was born. But Je-sus told them before A-bra-ham was born he as God was.

This made them rage, and they took up stones to kill him, but, as his hour was not yet come, he hid from them. As he went on his way he saw a man who had been born blind. He had pity on him and said, I am the light of the world; so I will give light to these poor blind eyes.

The Phar-i-sees asked the cured man what he thought of the man who healed him, and he told them he thought he was a seer, a man of God. But the Phar-i-sees said if he was a man of God he would not break the law, for it was on the Lord's Day that Je-sus made clay and rubbed it on the man's eyes. They said Je-sus was a bad man, and they knew not whence he came. Then the man who was cured said, I do not know if he is a man of God or not; but I do know that once I was blind and now I see.

This made the Phar-i-sees rage, and they told him he was a fool to try to teach them. So they drove him out of their sight.

When Je-sus heard that he had been cast out by the Jews, he went to him, and said, Hast thou faith in the Son of God? The man said, Who is he, Lord? Then Je-sus said, It is he who now talks with thee. When the man heard this he said, Lord, I have faith in thee.

At this time Je-sus spoke a par-a-ble and said, A man once fell in with thieves, who robbed and beat him and left him half dead on the road. Soon a priest came that way, and saw the hurt man, but he crossed the road to get out of his way, and went off and left him there. Next came a Le-vite, and he, too, looked at the man and left

him to his fate. But a Sa-mar-i-tan who saw his sad state, went to him and bound up his wounds and put him on his own beast and took him to an inn and nursed him all night. And when he left next day he gave the host two pence and said, Take good care of that poor sick man and the next time I come I will pay thee more. Now which of these three men do you think kept the law?

The one who was good to the man who stood in need of help. Yes, said Je-sus, thou hast well said, and the tale shows that the law means we must love and help all men.

Near Je-ru-sa-lem and just at the foot of the Mount of Ol-ives lived a wom-an named Mar-tha with her broth-er Laz-a-rus and her sis-ter Mary. All three were friends of Je-sus and loved him much. He loved them, too, and was glad to go to see them. One day Ma-ry left Mar-tha to do all the house-work, while she sat at the feet of the Lord to catch each word that fell from his lips.

Mar-tha wished to please so loved a guest, and thought Ma-ry ought to help her cook and serve; so she said to Je-sus: Lord, my sis-ter leaves me to do all the work? Bid her come and help me. But Je-sus said, Mar-tha, Mar-tha, you



THE GOOD SA-MAR-I-TAN

do not know what is best for you so well as Ma-ry does. In your zeal you do much that it is not worth while to do. There is more than one way to please me, and Ma-ry has made choice of the best way. Do not call Ma-ry to help you make a feast for me, but come here and help her make the most of the feast I serve for you.

Thus Je-sus taught that it is best to feed the soul and not the flesh.

The Phar-i-sees said it was wrong for Je-sus to walk and talk and eat with those whose sins were so well known. Je-sus told them this tale: There was a man who had two sons. One of them grew tired of his home and wished to go to strange lands. So he asked his father to give him his share of their wealth that he might see the world. Then he went forth and spent all his wealth in riot and sin. When he found that he was poor and had nought to eat he thought of his home and the good times he had when he was there. So he said, I will not stay in this place. I will go back and say, Fa-ther, I have sinned in the sight of God, and have done much wrong to thee. Do not call me son but let me be as one of the hired men.

At once he set out on his way back to his own land. When he drew near his old home



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MA-RY AND MAR-THA

his fa-ther saw him and ran to meet him and he said to his fa-ther what he thought and kissed him.

But the fa-ther said to his men, bring forth the best robe and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fat calf and kill it and let us eat and be glad. For this my son was dead, and now he lives; he was lost and is found.

In this tale Je-sus taught that, though God hates sin, he does not cease to love those who grieve when they do wrong, but is glad to have them turn from their wrong ways and come back to him.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE PAR-A-BLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZ-A-RUS—BLESS-ES THE CHIL-DREN—LAZ-A-RUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

JE-SUS knew that some of those who came to hear him talk thought more of wealth than they did to do God's will and help those who were poor and sick. To these folks he told this tale: There was once a rich man who ate the best of food; and at his gate there laid a poor sick man, named Laz-a-rus, who had no



THE PROD-I-GAL SON.

food nor good clothes, and was full of sores that would not heal. Laz-a-rus asked to have the scraps that fell on the rich man's floor sent him, but he would not give them to him.

The dogs felt for him, for they came and licked his sores; but the rich man gave him no food, and paid no heed to his wants.

At last Laz-a-rus died, and angels bore him up to live with God, in a world of joy and light. Dives (the rich man) died, too, and went to the place where the bad go. Dives looked up and saw Laz-a-rus in joy. He begged that he might have one drop of cool water from the hand of Laz-a-rus. But as he did to Laz-a-rus on earth so also was done to him and he could not get even a drop of water to soothe his pains.

At this time some of the folks brought their boys and girls and babes to Je-sus that he might lay his hands on them and bless them. The disciples thought that Je-sus came to teach and preach to grown folks, and that it was not right to ask him to spend his time on those who were too young to be helped by him; so they chid the folks who brought their babes, and tried to make them leave the Lord in peace. But this did not please Je-sus and he told them that small folks had as much right to come to him as grown folks



BE LIKE A LIT-TLE CHILD

had. Then he took the babes in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them and said, Let them come to me and do not try to hold them back, for of such hearts as these is God's king-dom made up.

Some time af-ter this Laz-a-rus the broth-er of Ma-ry and Mar-tha fell sick and died. There was great grief at his death and they came to Je-sus and told him. A few days had passed and Je-sus goes back to Laz-a-rus' grave.

Laz-a-rus has lain four days in the grave and a throng of friends are with Ma-ry and Mar-tha in their house to weep for their loss.

As soon as Mar-tha caught sight of Je-sus she cried out, Lord, if thou hadst been here he would not have died. Je-sus said, Laz-a-rus shall rise from the dead. Yes, Lord, said Mar-tha, I know that he shall rise at the last day when all the dead shall rise. She has not yet the full faith in Je-sus, nor does she know his might.

When they reach the grave, Je-sus bids them raise the stone. The tombs in that land were hewn in the rocks, and a stone was made to serve as a door.

Mar-tha thought Je-sus' wish must be to see the face of his dear friend once more in the flesh. But Je-sus said to Mar-tha, Did I not tell



JE-SUS THE FRIEND OF CHIL-DREN

you that if you would have faith you should see how God could work? Then those who stood by did as Je-sus bade them, and took off the stone from the place where the dead man was laid. Then he cried with a loud voice, Laz-a-rus come forth ! and he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with white cloths, and with a white cloth bound on his face. Je-sus said, Loose him and let him go ! Thus did the Lord keep his word to Mar-tha and Ma-ry ; he had said, though Laz-a-rus was so sick, the end should not be death, and now their broth-er stood there full of life and health.

Je-sus now talked to his dis-ci-ples and told them for the third time that he could not stay with them long, as his foes would soon take him and give him up to the Ro-mans, who would mock him and spit on him and beat him, and at last would put him to death on a cross and lay him in the grave ; but he told them, too, that when he had been dead three days he would rise from the grave.

The twelve did not like to hear of his sad fate ; they thought it strange that he would let such things come to pass, and yet they did not know how to take his words. They still thought that when he rose from the dead he would reign

like a king on earth ; and the mother of James and John asked him to grant that her two sons might sit, one on his right hand and one on his left in his king-dom. Je-sus said that those who wished to reign with him must first die for him, and James and John and all of the twelve said they would do this.

CHAPTER IX.

BLIND BAR-TIM-EUS HEALED — ZAC-CHE-US
CALLED—JE-SUS EN-TERS JE-RU-SA-LEM—
HE TEACHES IN THE TEM-PLE.

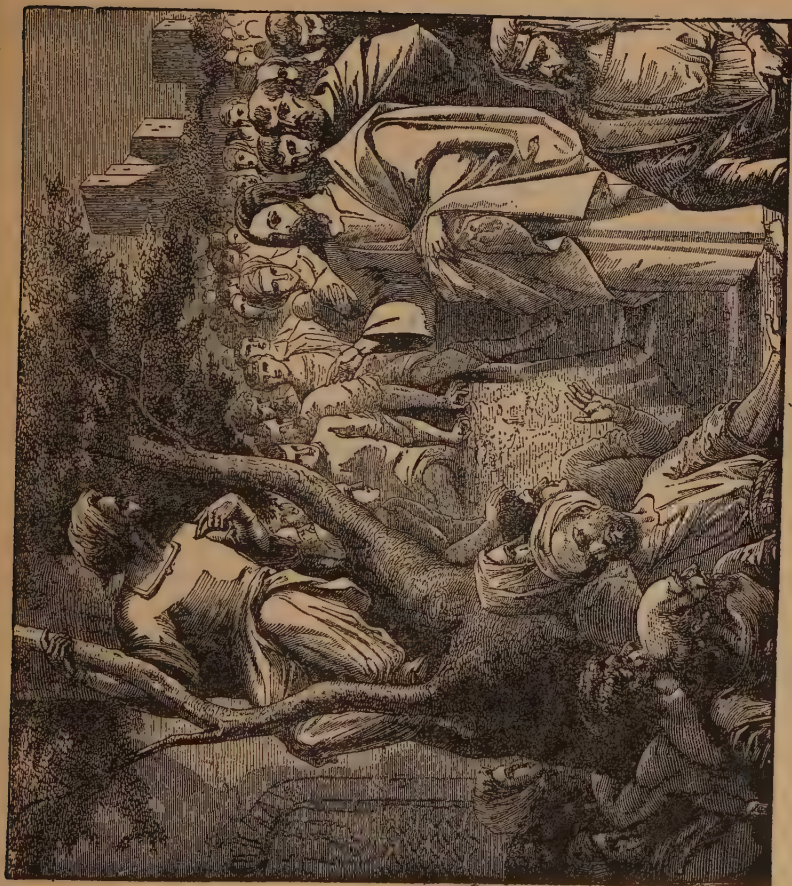
JE-SUS and his band of twelve now went down to Je-ru-sa-lem. On the way a poor blind man named Bar-tim-eus sat to beg. When he heard the noise of the crowd he asked what it meant. He was told that Je-sus would pass that way. Then he thought no more of alms but cried with a loud voice: Je-sus, son of Da-vid, help me. Those who were near him tried to make him hold his peace, but he cried out the more. Then Je-sus called him to him and asked what he wanted. He said, Lord give me my sight. Je-sus told him, Go thy way thy faith

hath made the whole. And at once he saw and gave thanks to God.

As they went on, the crowd grew. A rich man named Zac-che-us had heard of Je-sus and wants to see him; but he is so short he has to climb a tree to get a look at him. From his safe perch he looks down on the crowd with no thought that Je-sus wants to see him. Je-sus looks up and calls him down from the tree saying: Haste Zac-che-us for I must be thy guest to-day. The crowd did not like this as Zac-che-us had a bad name. But Je-sus knew he would turn from his bad ways and make a good man.

The next day Je-sus was at a great feast in the house of Si-mon whom he had cured. Laz-a-rus was also there and Mar-tha served the guests. Ma-ry Mag-da-lene came and brought a box of choice oil which she poured on the head and feet of Je-sus while he ate the meal, and then she wiped his feet with her hair. This oil cost a large sum and was so rich and rare that when she broke the box the whole house was filled with sweet scent.

But there is one man there whose bad heart robs the scene of all the sweet. Ju-das, one of the twelve, says: Why was not this salve sold that the poor might have had it in place of such a



JE-SUS CALLS ZAC-CHE-US.

waste as this? This he said not from care for the poor; for he was a thief and had put his hand in the mon-ey bag more than once for his own good, and he could not bear to see such a prize as this box of salve so lost.

But Je-sus said, Do not scold Ma-ry nor find fault with her, for she has done the best she could; she did it for love, and love is worth more than gold. You have the poor with you all the time and can help them when you choose; but you will not have me long, for the day of my death draws near.

This feast in Si-mon's house was served on the Lord's day, and the next day Je-sus left for Je-ru-sa-lem. There was a crowd with him and the town was full of Jews from all parts of the land who had come to take part in the great feast.

Je-sus bade two of his friends walk on till they came to a place where they could see an ass tied, that they were to loose and bring to him. They did what Je-sus bade them, and they put their robes on the ass and Je-sus sat on them, and thus he rode to the great town.

Some of the folks spread their clothes on the ground and some cut boughs from the palm trees to spread in the path; and they waved palm boughs in the air, too, and cried: Ho-



JE-SUS EN-TERS JE-RU-SA-LEM

san-na to the son of Da-vid! Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The vast throng move on with shouts of praise. As Je-sus looks on the fair town and thinks of the woe that is sure to come, he weeps and cries: If thou hadst known at least in this thy day, the things which would give thee peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes!

The crowd kept on with him all the way through the streets and up to the church; and there the lame and the blind were brought to him, and he healed them.

For the next four days Je-sus was in the Tem-ple each day and taught the folks and made such hosts of friends that the hate his foes felt for him grew worse day by day; but they did not dare to take him by force for they knew that all who stood by had faith in him. His foes set spies to catch him in his speech and tried hard to do so but he put them all to shame.

At length when they found that they could not take him by force nor by craft, they sought to find some one of the twelve that they might bribe. And in this they did not fail.

CHAPTER X.

JU-DAS BE-TRAYS JE-SUS—JE-SUS KEEPS THE GREAT FEAST—THE LAST SUP-PER—IN THE GAR-DEN OF GETH-SEM-ANE—THE JU-DAS KISS—JE-SUS IS BROUGHT BE-FORE THE HIGH PRIEST—THE COURT DOOMS HIM TO DEATH—THE DEATH OF JU-DAS—THE FIELD OF BLOOD.

JU-DAS IS-CAR-IOT was one of the band of twelve men who stayed with Je-sus all the time; who went from place to place with him, ate and drank with him, and did not leave him day or night. But Judas was full of greed and cared more for wealth than any thing else.

In a heart filled with the love of gold there is no room for the love of Je-sus; and when Ju-das found that the king-dom of Je-sus was not of this world, and that he had naught to give his friends, he made up his mind to sell Je-sus to his foes.

So Ju-das asks the Jews how much they would pay him to give Je-sus up to them. They named a small sum, and from that hour Ju-das sought a chance to give up Je-sus to the Court in such a time and way as not to rouse the rage of his friends.

On the next day the great feast was to be kept and the twelve asked Je-sus where they should eat it this year. He said, Go to such a man and say to him, the Lord bids us say to thee, My time is at hand. I will keep the feast at thy house and with my friends. He will show you a large guest room in which you may set out the feast.

So that night Je-sus and his friends sat down to eat their last meal at which they would be. He said : I have long wished to eat this meal with you ; and filled with grief he went on and said, One of you is false and waits the chance to give me up to my foes. Ju-das knew what he meant but the others were grieved to hear the words. Each one asked the Lord is it I. Each one fears he is to fall from grace. And Je-sus said, It is he who shall dip with me in the dish. At the wish of the others, John, the loved one of the band asks again ; and Je-sus says : It is he to whom I shall give a sop when I dip it. Soon Je-sus dipped the sop and gave it to Ju-das who said : Lord is it I and Je-sus said, Thou hast said it, and adds, Go with speed and do what you mean to do. And Ju-das fled from the house and went to the scribes and priests to plot to take Je-sus when he went to pray when the meal was done.



6—Child's Story New Test. one syl.

81

THE LAST SUPPER

While they still sat at the meal Je-sus told them what he would have them do to spread the truth. That they must preach and teach his word to all and bap-tize men in the faith. Then he took bread and broke it and gave it to them and said : Take ye and eat, this is my body, so did he take the wine cup and gave thanks and said, This is my blood which shall be shed to save the world from sin.

Je-sus spoke more words of peace and love to them. Then they sung a hymn and though it was night, they went out to the Mount of Ol-ives. Here Je-sus used to seek rest and pray. He took Pe-ter and James and John with him but bade the eight, Sit ye here while I go and pray. Je-sus prayed three times Oh my Fath-er if it be thy will let this cup pass from me, but not as I will but as thou wilt.*

It was God's will that his dear Son should drain the cup to the dregs, but he sent an an-gel to cheer him. While Je-sus prayed, the dis-ci-ples slept; so Je-sus waked them and told them to rise, for Ju-das had come with a band of armed men to take him from them.

Ju-das comes up and greets Je-sus with a kiss. He has told the band, He whom I shall kiss is he whom ye want. Take him, hold him fast,



JE-SUS WASH-ES THE DIS-CI-PLES' FEET

and lead him back to those who sent you. Hail, Lord ! said he, as he gave Je-sus the false kiss. All that Je-sus said to Ju-das was, Friend, why art thou come ? Ju-das dost thou give up the Son of Man with a kiss ? Then Je-sus steps forth to meet the band, and asks, Whom seek ye ? And they say, Je-sus of Naz-a-reth.

I am he. At these words they fall to the ground. But his hour had come. He lets them rise, and asks once more, Whom seek ye ? and they said once more Je-sus of Naz-a-reth. Have I not told you I am he ? If ye seek me, take me, and let these men who are with me go their way.

So the guards bind him and lead him on. Pe-ter in a rage drew his sword and cut off the ear of one of the guard. But Je-sus tells him not to use the sword and heals the ear that had been cut off. He said to Pe-ter, Do you think that this mob could take me, if I did not let them ?

To the crowd which came out to seize him he said, Why have you come out to take me as if I were a thief, with swords and staves ? I sat with you in God's house, and taught you from day to day, but you laid no hands on me. But this is your hour. When the friends of Je-sus heard these words they all left him and fled !

Je-sus was led at once to the Court in the house of the high priest. They are in haste to do their foul work and doom Je-sus to death, by stealth.

The Court could make out no case. They ask Je-sus to make known what he has taught. Je-sus bids them not to ask him, but to ask the crowds whom he has taught from place to place, in all the land, and in the House of God at Je-ru-sa-lem. One of the guards slapped his face and said, Dost thou speak in that way to the high priest? Je-sus said, If I speak ill, prove it; but if well, why dost thou smite me?

Then the high priest said to him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of God? I charge thee in the name of God to tell us if thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Je-sus said, I am; but ye shall yet see the Son of man sit on the right hand of God, and come in the clouds.

Then the high priest rent his clothes, to show what a shock it gave him to hear Je-sus thus claim to be the Son of God. What need have we to seek for proofs? We have heard his own words. What do you think? Then all the court said, He ought to be put to death.

Then the guards mock Je-sus and spit in his

face and they tie his eyes and strike him and ask him to tell who did it.

As soon as it was day Je-sus was led to the court, and the same form was gone through with as when they had sat at night. They ask, Art thou the Christ? and he says, If I tell you, you will not have faith in me. Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? He said to them, Ye say that I am. Then they all said, What need have we to hear proof? We have heard it from his own mouth.

Ju-das, was of course, cast out by his old friends, but no one else took him up. They pay him his bribe, but bad as they are, they scorn him as he takes it, for it is the price of the blood of his best friend.

His poor soul can stand no more. He breaks in on the court which would not call him, and at this late hour he gives in his word for Je-sus. He cries, It is my sin that I gave him up to you, him who is pure of all sin! What is that to us, they say, see thou to that. Then Ju-das casts down the bribe, and went out and put an end to his own life. The chief priests pick up the coin, and they at last make up their minds to buy a field in which to lay the dead who have no tomb of their own, nor friends to give them a grave.

And to this day that place which they thus bought, bears the name of the Field of Blood.

The Jews were not free at this time, so they could not doom a man to death. They must ask leave of Rome ere they can put a man to death.

CHAPTER XI.

JE-SUS IS BOUND AND BROUGHT TO BE JUDGED BY PI-LATE—HE SENDS HIM TO HE-ROD, WHO MOCKS HIM, AND SENDS HIM BACK—JE-SUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS—HIS DEATH—A WATCH IS SET ON HIS GRAVE BY THE JEWS.

THE next day Je-sus was bound and led to Pi-late. What the chief priests hoped was that Pi-late would bid them go and do their will with Je-sus. But Pi-late hates the Jews, and he will not be a mere tool in their hands. He bids them tell him what they charge the man with. The priests say, If he had not done wrong we should not have brought him to you.

Then they take a new course to get Pi-late on their side. They say, We found this man had tried to lead the Jews to cast off the yolk of Rome. He told them not to pay Cæsar's tax, but said he was Christ, the king of the Jews.

Then Pi-late took Je-sus one side to talk with him. He asks, Art thou the King of the Jews? Je-sus said, I am ; but my king-dom is not of this world. If I were of this world, then would they who serve me fight, and save me out of the hands of the Jews.

Pilate said to the Jews: I find no fault in this man.

Then other charges were trumped up. But Je-sus said not a word. The chief priests then said, He stirs up the Jews. He has taught through all the land from Gal-i-lee to this place.

When Pi-late heard that Je-sus came from Gal-i-lee, to get rid of the mob and their suit he sent them to He-rod, the King of Gal-i-lee, who was in town at the time.

Now He-rod had a strong wish to see Je-sus. He had thought at one time that he must be John the Baptist, whom he had slain, and who had come back to life. His hope was that Je-sus would do some great sign in his sight. But Je-sus stood still, with weak, pale face, and bound hands. He knew that He-rod had no faith in him, so he would do naught. This vexed He-rod so much that he and his men made sport of him, and dressed him like a mock king, and sent him back to Pi-late.



CRU-CI-FY HİM! CRU-CI-FY HIM!

When Pi-late finds that the case yet rests with him, he still means to let Je-sus free.

But the Jews cried out, If you let this man go, you are no friend of Cæsar's. When Pi-late heard these words, he said, Shall I put your King to death? but they cried, We have no king but Cæsar.

At this time Pi-late's wife had a dream as to "that just man" Je-sus, which gave her great fright and pain, and she bade Pi-late do him no harm.

This made Pi-late's wish still more strong to set Je-sus free. At this time the Jews have the choice to set free some one who was shut up in jail. So Pi-late tries to save Je-sus but the Jews cry out to free Ba-rab-bas a Jew who had killed a man.

Pi-late then asks, but what shall I do with Je-sus, and all cry out, To the cross, to the cross with him! Pi-late still pleads with them, but their cries ring out more loud and fierce, To the cross with him! to the cross with him! Pi-late gives in to the mob, but he stands up in the sight of all the crowd to wash his hands. I am clean of the blood of this just man, said he, see ye to it. The Jews cried out, We will bear the blame of it; his blood be on us and on our chil-dren.



ON THE WAY TO CAL-VARY

Then they scourged Je-sus and put on him a red robe, and on his head a crown of thorns that pierced and cut the skin. In his hand they put a reed and bowed down to him as they cry Hail ! king of the Jews. Poor Je-sus is ill-treated by all of them and is faint and sick with pain.

Pi-late leads Je-sus forth in the robe and crown, and pleads, See the man ! I bring him forth that ye may know that I find no fault with him. The sight, so full of woe, seems but to rouse more thirst for the blood of Je-sus, and once more they cry, To the cross with him ! Pi-late yields to their threats and gives up Je-sus to them to be put to death on the cross. The Jews take Je-sus and lead him out through one of the gates of the town. On his back, sore with the wounds which the scourge has made, they lay the cross of wood on which he is to die. But he is too faint and weak from the long fast and his loss of blood to bear it, and he sinks with its weight, they chance to meet a man named Si-mon, who is on his way to town, and stop him and make him bear the cross for Je-sus. Then as the crowd once more moves on, more and more join it. There are some whose hearts ache at the sight of Je-sus, and they break out in sobs and cries. The sad wail comes to his ears and he turns to



JE-SUS FALLS UN-DER THE CROSS

speaking to them: Weep not for me, ye wives of Je-ru-sa-lem, he says, but weep for your own fate and the fate of those whom you have borne.

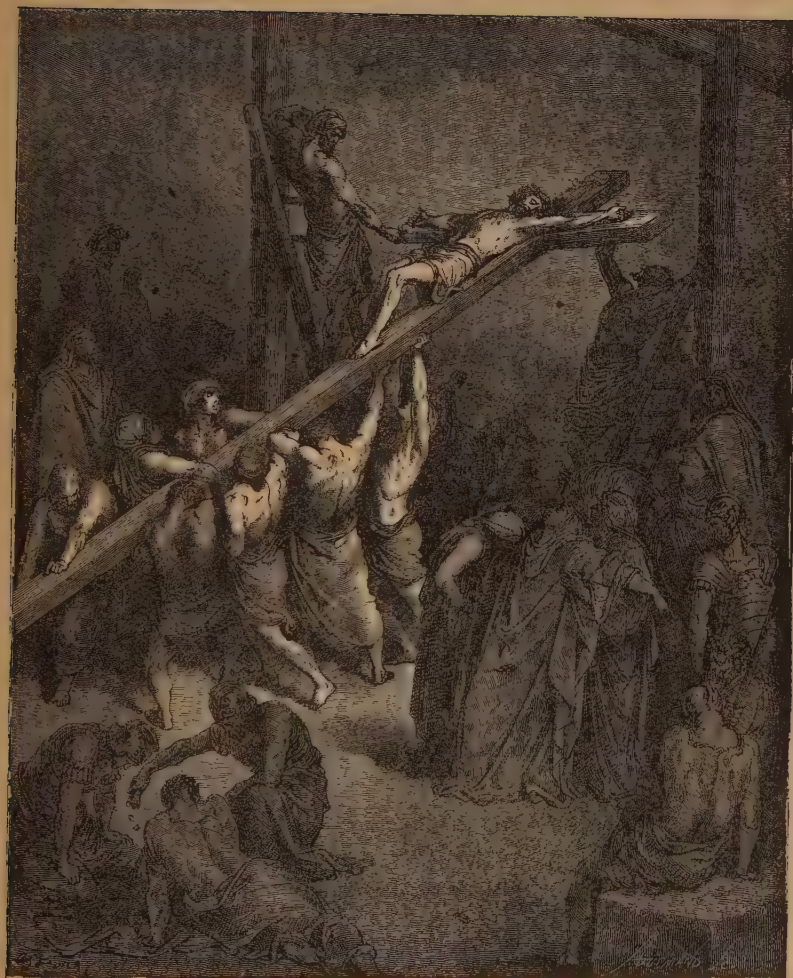
The place where the cross was to be set up was a round knoll, which was shaped so like a skull as to go by name—THE PLACE OF A SKULL.

To add to the shame of the scene, two thieves had been brought with them to meet the same death with him who had no sin.

They nailed the feet and hands of Je-sus to the cross, and all the while Je-sus prayed, Blot out their sin, for they know not what they do. And now they lift up the three and make each cross firm in its place. Je-sus is in the midst of the two thieves, one on his right hand and one on his left.

Pi-late sent a scroll to be put on the top of Je-sus' cross. He wrote it with his own hand in three tongues, so that all who went by could read it: JE-SUS OF NAZ-A-RETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Some of the Jews mock him with the cry, Let him save his own life if he be the Christ of God.

The cross stood near the gate of the town, which was filled with the great crowd. As they draw near and read the scroll which is on Je-sus'



THE DEATH OF JESUS

cross, they feel the scorn which Pi-late has shown them in its words, and vent on Je-sus the rage which they dare not show to Pi-late.

They cry out, If thou be the Son of God come down from the cross, that we may see thy might and have faith in thee !

One of the thieves adds his voice to the shout and says, If thou be the Christ save thine own self and us ! But the thief who hangs on the third cross, chides him for his words : Dost thou not fear God ? We, in truth, ought to be here, but this man has done no wrong. And he said to Je-sus Think of me when thou art on thy throne. Je-sus said to him, This day shalt thou be with me in peace.

There is a group at the foot of the cross on which Je-sus looks with love. Ma-ry, his moth-er and John, the one of the twelve most dear to him. As he looks on this pair he says to John : Son, behold thy moth-er ; and to Ma-ry : Moth-er, behold thy son.

At noon, all at once, all grows dark, the sun hides its face for three long hours and there is no light. But at the ninth hour (that is three o'clock), Je-sus cries out with a loud voice, My God ! My God ! why hast thou left me ? It was not mere pain which wrung that cry from his

heart, but the woe caused by the load of the sins of the world.

Then he cried, I thirst, and some one who stood by wet a sponge in sour wine and put it on a large reed so that it would reach his lips, and he drank. Then Je-sus, who knew that all which the word of God had said that the Christ must do and bear had now been done, said, It is done, and then with a loud cry to God, he bent his head on his breast and died.

At that last cry the earth shook; the rocks were rent, and the veil of God's house was torn in twain; and the graves gave up their dead; and all those at the cross cried out. In truth this was the Son of God!

The guards broke the legs of the two thieves, but when they came to Je-sus they found him dead, so they did not break a bone of him, as it had been said of him like a lamb slain for the feast, they shall not break a bone of him.

Jo-seph, and Ni-co-de-mus (he who went to Je-sus by night for fear of the Jews two or three years back), take Je-sus down from the cross. They wrap the limbs in soft fine bands and rare drugs, and lay him in the tomb, and roll a great stone to the door, and leave him there, and make haste back to the town.

The chief priests went to Pi-late and said, Je-sus said that he would rise on the third day; so we pray thee to have men watch the tomb lest some of his friends come by night and steal him, and then go and say that he rose from the dead. Pi-late said, Ye have a watch; go your way; make it as sure as you can.

So they went and put a seal of wax on the great tomb, and set men to watch by the tomb.

CHAPTER XII.

JE-SUS LEAVES THE GRAVE—THE WOM-EN AT THE TOMB—TWO AN-GEELS AP-PEAR TO THEM AND TELL THEM, "HE IS RIS-EN"—JE-SUS AP-PEARS TO MAG-DA-LENE, TO TWO DIS-CI-PLES ON THEIR WAY TO EM-MA-US, AND TO ALL THE DIS-CI-PLES—THE DOUBTS OF THOM-AS—JE-SUS GOES UP TO HEAV-EN—THE DIS-CI-PLES ARE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST—THEY GO OFF TO PREACH THE WORD.

ON the first day of the week, long ere it was light, an an-gel came and broke the seal and rolled the stone from the grave and sat on it. His face shown like light and his robe was as



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99

MA-RY MAG-DA-LENE AT THE TOMB

white as snow. The guards fell down in a fright as though dead.

Just as the sun rose Ma-ry Mag-da-lene, Ma-ry Cle-o-phas and Sa-lo-me came with fine spi-ces to Je-sus tomb. But they find the tomb emp-ty and Ma-ry Mag-da-lene flies back to tell the sad news to the friends of Je-sus. The other two go into the tomb where they see the an-gel who rolled back the stone. Fear not, said he, Je-sus whom you seek is not here. He rose from the dead as he said he would. He will meet you in Gal-i-lee.

All now was joy and the dis-ci-ples ran to the tomb of Je-sus to know if what they heard was true. At the tomb they found things just as they had been told. They saw the grave clothes in neat folds and they did not look at all as if they had been torn off. Then they knew Je-sus had left the tomb of his own will.

Then Pe-ter and John went back to their own home. But Ma-ry Mag-da-lene did not go. She stayed to weep. The glad thought that Je-sus could and must rise from the dead has not as yet made its way to her heart. She thinks the foes of Je-sus must have come to steal his corpse.

She turns her head and sees Je-sus, who stands near her. But her heart is full of fear and



MA-RY KNEW HER RIS-EN LORD

grief, and she does not know him. She says to him, Sir, if thou hast borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take care of him.

Ma-ry!

What a thrill the well known voice of Je-sus must have sent through that sad heart of hers! She falls down and tries to clasp his feet, but all she can say is, My Lord! But Je-sus bids her touch him not, for he has not yet gone up on high. But he bids her, too, go and tell his friends that he will soon go back to his God and their God.

That same day, two friends of Je-sus were on their way to Em-ma-us. As they walk they talk of the sad scenes in Pi-late's hall, on the road to Cal-va-ry, and of the death on the cross. In the midst of this talk one joins them whom they know not. He asks them why they are so sad. They tell their sad tale through and of the news that Je-sus had rose from the dead.

He who had met them heard them through, and then said, O fools and slow of heart to trust all the words which ye have heard as to Je-sus and his work!

And then he went back to what Mo-ses and men of old wrote of Jesus that he might show



THE WEEP-ING MAG-DA-LENE

them how all things had been done by Je-sus which it had been said he should do. But still they knew him not. They urge him to be their guest for the night.

But their guest is soon their host; for it came to pass as he sat at meat with them he took bread and blest it, and brake and gave to them. Now their eyes are held no more, and they know their Lord! But as they gaze at him in awe and love, he fades from their sight, and they see him no more.

That same night the friends of Je-sus met by stealth, and with shut doors, for fear of the Jews. All at once Je-sus stood in their midst with the words, Peace be with you! Why do you fear? and why do doubts rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet prove that it is I; touch me and see, for a ghost hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have.

When they see the rents of the nails in his hands and feet they are glad, as they know it is the Lord. To make them still more sure he asks for food, and eats in their sight.

Then once more Je-sus said, Peace be to you! as God has sent me forth, so send I you, and as he breathes on them he gives them the HO-LY GHOST.



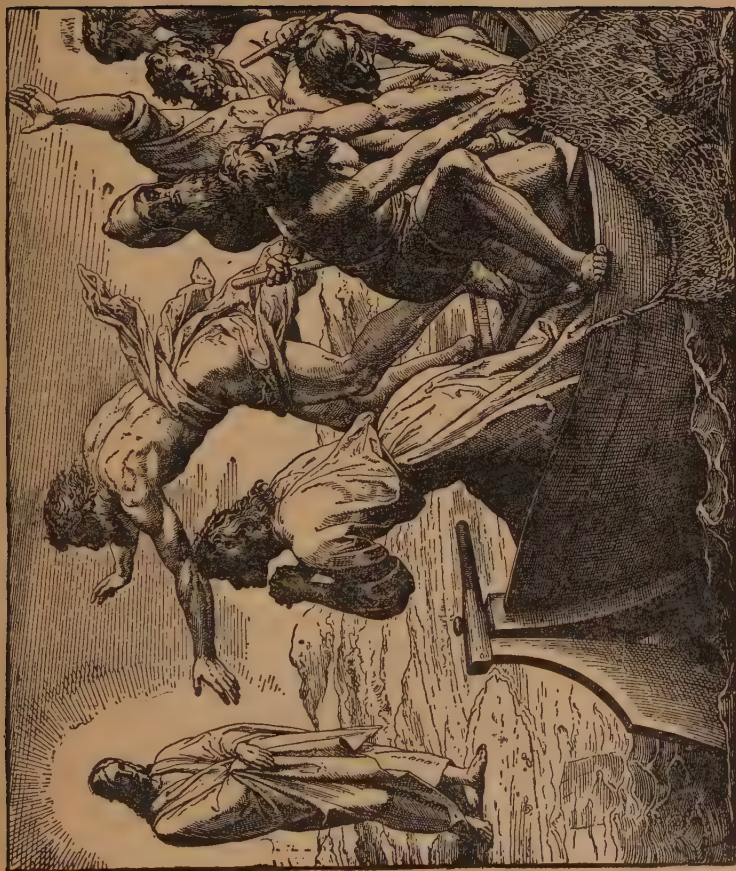
THE WALK TO EM-MA-US

Now, there was one of the twelve who was not at the place where they met that night. His name was Thom-as. When told of what they saw he has great doubts.

Next week Je-sus stands forth in their midst once more, and says, Peace be to you! Then he turns to Thom-as, whose head doubts, though his heart loves, and says, See and touch the prints of the nails! Put thy hand in my side, and doubt no more, but have faith in me?

Thom-as' doubts all fly at these words. He cries out with a loud voice, My Lord, and my God!

Some days have passed and Pe-ter and some of the oth-ers have gone out on the lake to fish. They have not caught any fish up to dawn when Je-sus stands on the shore but they know him not. He tells them where to throw the net when it fills with fish at once, so that they can not draw it back on the boat! Then John said to Pe-ter, It is the Lord! Pe-ter cares no more for the fish when he hears that glad word. He caught up his coat which he had laid off in his toil, and sprang into the sea, and made for the shore as fast as he could. The rest of the crew come too. Je-sus bids them bring some of the fish from the net, and they find it full. Then Je-sus said to



IT IS THE LORD.

them, Come and dine, and they drew near, but dare not speak to him. Je-sus now acts as their host. He took bread and gave to them, and fish as well.

When the meal is done, Je-sus turns to Pe-ter and speaks words which must have been like balm to his sore heart. But he now hears him to whom he had been so false, say, in mild, sweet tones, Si-mon, son of Jo-nas, dost thou love me more than these? Pe-ter is not so rash as he was, and does not boast of his love. Yes, Lord, thou dost know that I love thee. Je-sus then shows him how he can make proof of his love; Feed my lambs. Help the young and the weak to find their strength and life in your Lord. But Je-sus asks once more, in the same words. Si-mon, son of Jo-nas, dost thou love me? Yes, Lord; thou dost know that I love thee.

Feed my sheep.

The third time Je-sus asks, Si-mon, son of Jo-nas, dost thou love me?

Three times Pe-ter has said, of Je-sus, I know not the man, and three times he must own his love to Je-sus.

Then Je-sus tells Pe-ter by what mode of death he will die, in these words; When thou wert young thou didst gird thee, and walk where



JE-SUS BIDS HIS DIS-CI-PLES FARE-WELL

thou didst please; but when thou shalt be old, strange hands will gird thee and bear thee where thou wouldst not.

And so it came to pass, for Pe-ter was to serve Je-sus all his life, and prove his love to him when an old man, by death, for his name's sake. Bad men would gird him, as they had bound his Lord, to the cross. When his time came he begged those who were to nail him to the wood to place him with his head down, for he said he was not fit to die by the same death with his Lord.

When Pe-ter has heard what his own fate is to be he wants to know what will come to John. He knows how fond Je-sus has been of John. Je-sus does not choose to tell but says: If I will that he stay till I come, what is that to thee?

Once more Je-sus met his friends at Je-ru-salem, and told them what their work in the world was to be. They were to go forth and spread the good news and plant the seed that would save souls. He bids them stay till the HO-LY GHOST shall come down on them to fit them for this great work, and then go forth and preach in his name.

Je-sus stayed on earth two score days from the day when he rose from the dead. He gave

proof on proof that he was the same Je-sus who had died on the cross. He made them see at last, what all his life had not taught them, that he was in truth, the King of kings. He told them, too, that in this great work, though he would be hid from their sight, yet he would be with them. Lo! he said, I am with you at all times, to the end of the world. And when he had thus taught them, and made them strong in the faith, he left them to do his work.

He leads them out as far as Beth-any, and there lifts up his hands to bless them. While he thus stands with eyes that beam with love, and hands raised to bless them, he floats up through the air and up and up, till a cloud veils him from their sight! A voice at their side brings their eyes back to earth. There stood with them two men in white robes who say, Ye men of Gal-i-lee, why stand ye and thus gaze? This same Je-sus who has now gone from your sight, shall come once more as ye have seen him go.

May God give to each read-er of this book the strength to hold the faith to the end that they may share with Je-sus the King of kings the joys of his Fath-er's house for ev-er and ev-er, A-men.

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